

Honey Bee Pests



Two Legged

- Humans have always been an issue for beekeepers
 - Commercial beekeepers have whole pallets of bees stolen, or there yards raided
 - Hobby or small operators can have hives stolen but normally their hives are threatened by vandels



Pesticides Delivered by 2 Legged

- The use of bee-toxic pesticides during bloom are forbidden in most areas.
- Aerial spraying in farm area can be a big concern in rural areas.
- The pesticides are deadly to adult bees and larvae. And can build up in your comb. That is why we recommend comb replacement every 5 years.



Birds

- Birds love to prey on honey bees. Especially Robins.
- Just watch around your yard to see if you have a bird problem. They tend to like queen mating yards because drones and queens are easy to catch.



Four Legged-Bears

- Bears normally cause the most damage but can be prevented with a bee fence.
- Bears eat brood first then honey.



Four Legged-Skunks

- Skunks can cause major damage
 - They scratch the front of the hive and the bees come out to investigate and get eaten.
 - If your hive set close to the ground always look for scratching on the hive entrance and the ground in front.
 - Setting your bees on a stand about 12-18 inches off the ground usually stops the skunks.



Four legged-Raccoons

- Raccoon attack bees at night like Skunks
 - They scratch the front of the hive and the bees come out to investigate and get eaten.
 - If your hive set close to the ground always look for scratching on the hive entrance and the ground in front.
 - Setting your bees on a stand about 12-18 inches off the ground usually stops the raccoons.



Four Legged-Mice

- Mice love the inside of your hive in the winter, it is warm and dry. Make a real mess in your hive and you will need to destroy frames and disinfect equipment.
 - 3/8 in hive entrances will keep mice out.
 - You can use a mice guard in winter.



Four Legged-Cows

- The corners of your hives are a favorite scratching stand for cows.
 - Put a simple fence around your hives if they are in with cows.
 - Horses don't tend to bother bees.



Six Legged-Ants

- Ants can cause major damage to bee hives. Especially to hives that are building up. Ants love the larvae. The bees spend more time fighting ants than producing.
 - Setting the hive stand in cans of oil will stop ants, you can use ant granules around the hive. The bees do not bother the ant poison.



Six Legged-Wasps, Yellow Jackets and Hornets

- If allowed to get out of control they will destroy your hives very quickly
 - Serious problem in our area.
 - In early March set out your traps as that is when the queens come out. Everyone killed saves you a bad August. If your hives are being bothered by them reduce the hive entrances and move the brood down to allow the guard bees to defend the front entrance.



Six Legged-Wasps, Yellow Jackets and Hornets



A five gallon bucket half filled with soapy water, install a stick across with half cooked bacon above the water will kill lots of them if you have a heavy infestation.



Small Hive Beetle

- Small hive beetle not an issue in our area.



Six Legged-Wax Moths

- Wax moths if not controlled will cause extensive damage to comb. Very serious for stored comb and dead outs.



Six Legged-Wax Moths

- Treatment-**dichlorobenzene** as active ingredients

